

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 17611 241724Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1824
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PGOV PINT EG
SUBJECT: INITIAL REACTIONS TO "SADAT'S PARTY"

REF: CAIRO 17535

1. PARTIES (?) PRESS JULY 24 REPORTS CENTER PARTY AND
RIGHT WING SOCIALIST LIBERAL PARTIES CONSIDERING THEIR
FUTURE FOLLOWING SADAT'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT HE WILL CREATE
HIS OWN POLITICAL ORGANIZATION. FIRST INDICATIONS
ARE THAT BOTH PARTIES WILL SEEK SHELTER UNDER PRESIDENT'S
UMBRELLA. PAPERS NOTE SALEM'S CENTER PARTY ALREADY HAS
ESTABLISHED COMMITTEE FOR "ENDING SOCIALIST PARTY."
MUSTAFA KAMAL MURAD'S RIGHT WING PARTY, TOO, REPORTEDLY
REQUESTED "MERGER" WITH SADAT. DESPITE THIS, PAPERS
STRESS THAT NEW PARTY DOES NOT MEAN RETURN TO ONE PARTY
SYSTEM; EGYPTIAN DEMOCRACY REQUIRES THERE BE AT LEAST
TWO PARTIES.

2. CONSTITUTION. GUMHURIYYA PREDICTS PARLIAMENTARY
REPUBLICAN SYSTEM WILL REMAIN AND CONSTITUTION WILL NOT BE
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 17611 241724Z

AMENDED WITH REGARD TO PRIME MINISTER'S RESPONSIBILITIES.
PAPER OFFERS NO SUGGESTION ON WHOM WILL FILL THIS POSITION.

3. SADAT. SPEAKING TO AMBASSADOR JULY 24 SADAT INDICATED
HIS INTENTION IS TO HAVE FIVE POLITICAL PARTIES. HE WILL
CONVERT CENTER PARTY INTO HIS OWN ORGANIZATION. AN
EGYPTIAN (WITH HEAVY EMPHASIS ON EGYPTIAN) LEFT WILL BE

CREATED, PREFERABLY UNDER LEADERSHIP OF ABDUL RAUF SHARKAWI (ALTHOUGH WE HAVE HEARD THAT HE HAS DECLINED HONOR). PRESIDENT WILL SEEK TO PERSUADE MUSTAFA KAMEL MURAD TO KEEP HIS OFFICIAL RIGHT PARTY IN BEING DESPITE FACT MURAD WISHES TO JOIN SADAT. PRESIDENT EXPECTS SOCIALIST PARTY WILL BE FORMED FROM ELEMENTS ACTIVE IN THIS PARTY PRIOR TO REVOLUTION. FINALLY, SADAT SUGGESTED THAT WITH NUMBER OF MP'S REQUIRED FOR FORMATION OF PARTY REDUCED TO TEN, YET ANOTHER PARTY WILL EMERGE FROM INDEPENDENT MP'S. PRESIDENT HINTED THAT HE HOPED HELMI MURAD (LATELY OF WAFD) WOULD LEAD THIS GROUP.

4. MAREI. PA SPEAKER MAREI, IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF JULY 22, SAID THAT WHILE HE PROBABLY WOULD NOT JOIN SADAT'S PARTY, HE SAW IT AS HEALTHY MOVE TO PROMOTE DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL SYSTEM IN EGYPT. KEY TO SUCH SYSTEM, HE NOTED, IS RESPONSIBLE OPPOSITION, SOMETHING WHICH HAS BEEN LACKING BUT WHICH IS FACILITATED BY CREATION OF NEW PARTY LED BY PRESIDENT. ITS FORMATION WILL PERMIT COALESCENCE OF NON-GOVERNMENT FORCES TO ACT AS COUNTER-BALANCE, EVEN THOUGH THOSE OTHER PARTIES WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE IN MINORITY PA POSITION. MAREI COMMENTED DISPARATE ELEMENTS OF CENTER MISR PARTY HAD TOO LONG CONSTITUTED UNWIELDY, ESSENTIALLY MEANINGLESS MAJORITY WHICH TENDED TO STIFLE DEVELOPMENT OF USEFUL OPPOSITION. SPEAKER IMPLIED THAT HE HAD HAD CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE ON SADAT
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PAGE 03 CAIRO 17611 241724Z

IN DECIDING ON MOVE BY HIS, MAREI'S, DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT ON CHECKS AND BALANCES IN U.S. BODY POLITIC, UNDERSTANDING OF WHICH HE HAD GAINED ON HIS RECENT TRIP TO U.S. MAREI SAID SADAT HAD MULLED OVER QUESTION FOR SOME TIME AND HAD DECIDED FINALLY ON ANNOUNCEMENT ONLY ON DAY BEFORE SPEECH. EILTS

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